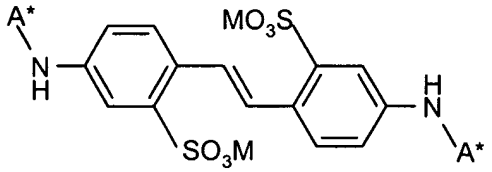
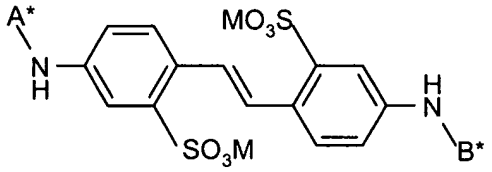
IN THE CLAIMS

The text of all claims under examination is submitted, and the status of each is identified. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

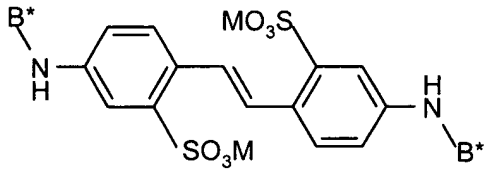
1.**(currently amended):** A fluorescent whitening agent, which comprises a mixture of compounds of the formulae



(1a),



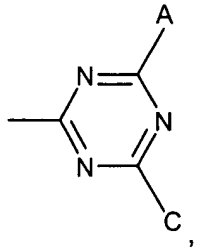
(1b) and



(1c),

in which

A* represents a group of the formula



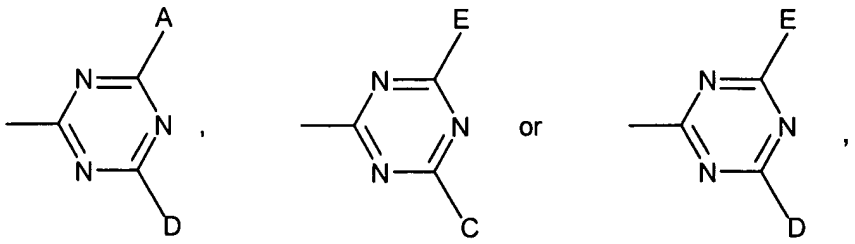
,

wherein

A represents –X-Y-NR_3R_4 and

C is -NR_1R_2 and

B* represents a group of the formula



whereby the groups A* and B* are not identical,

wherein

D represents $-NR_5R_6$ and

E represents $-X_1-Y_1-NR_7R_8$, whereby

X and X_1 each, independently of each other, represent -O- or -NH-,

Y and Y_1 each, independently of each other, represent a straight-chain C_2-C_8alkylene or branched C_3-C_8alkylene chain, which may be interrupted by one or two nitrogen, oxygen or sulphur atoms or represent a 5- or 6-membered cycloaliphatic ring,

R_1, R_2, R_5 and R_6 each independently of each other, represent hydrogen, C_1-C_8alkyl, C_2-C_4hydroxyalkyl, C_1-C_4alkoxyC_1-C_4alkyl, phenyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, C_1-C_4alkoxy, C_1-C_4alkyl or sulphonamido, or

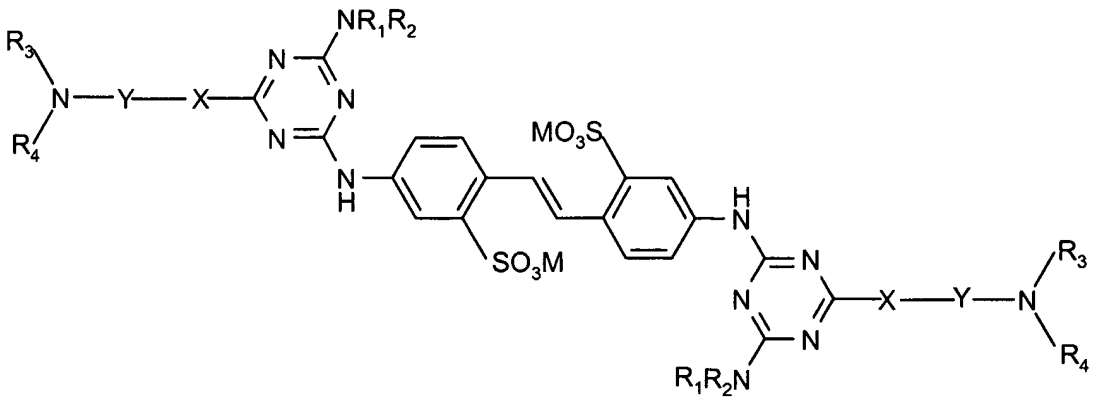
R_1 and R_2 and /or R_5 and R_6, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, complete a morpholino- piperidino- or pyrrolidino-ring,

R_3, R_4, R_7 and R_8, each independently of each other, represent hydrogen, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_2-C_4hydroxyalkyl or

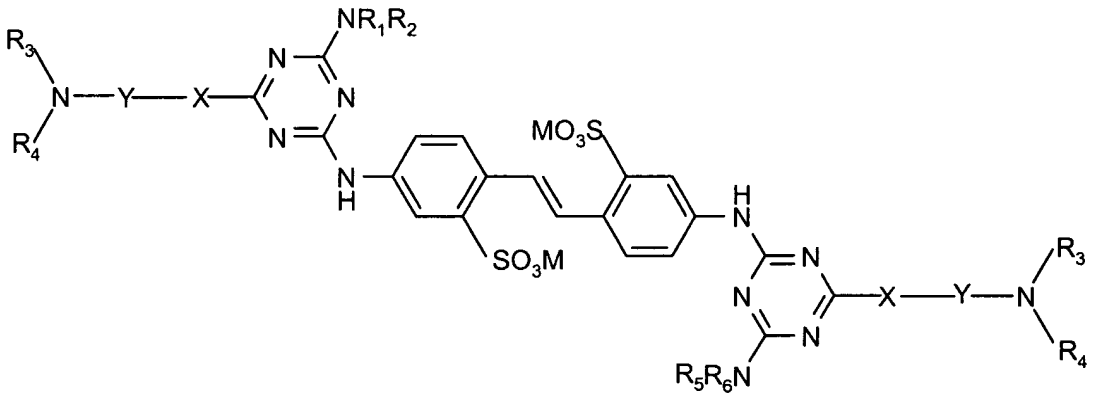
R_3 and R_4 and/or R_7 and R_8, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, complete a morpholino-, piperidino- or pyrrolidino-ring and

M represents hydrogen, an alkaline or alkaline earth metal, ammonium or alkylammonium.

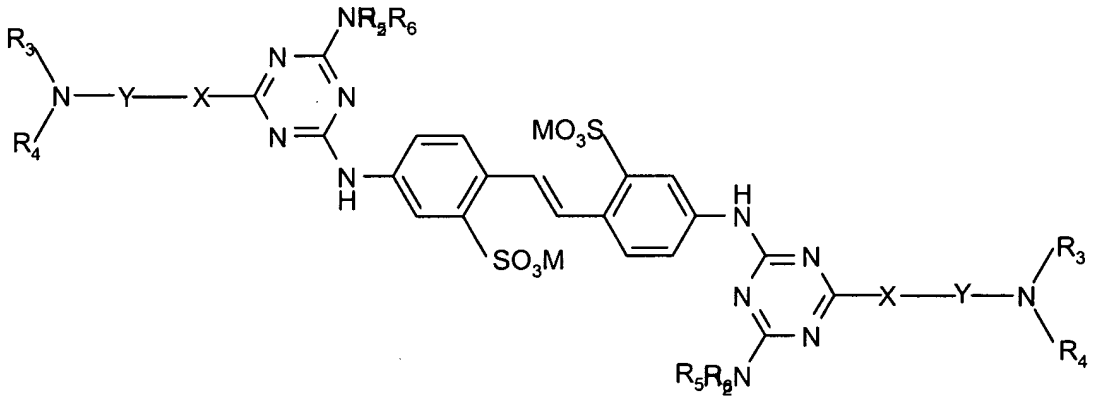
2. **(previously presented):** A fluorescent whitening agent, according to claim **1**, which comprises a mixture of compounds of the formulae



(1d),

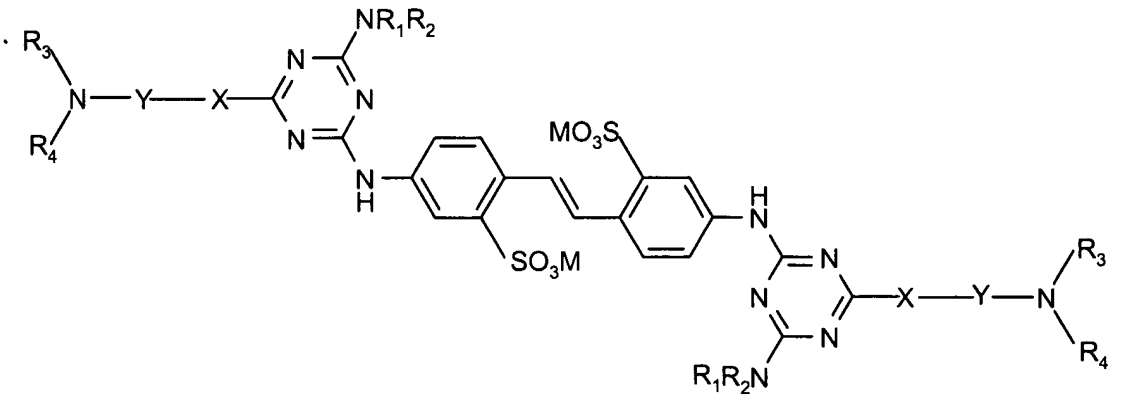


(1e) and

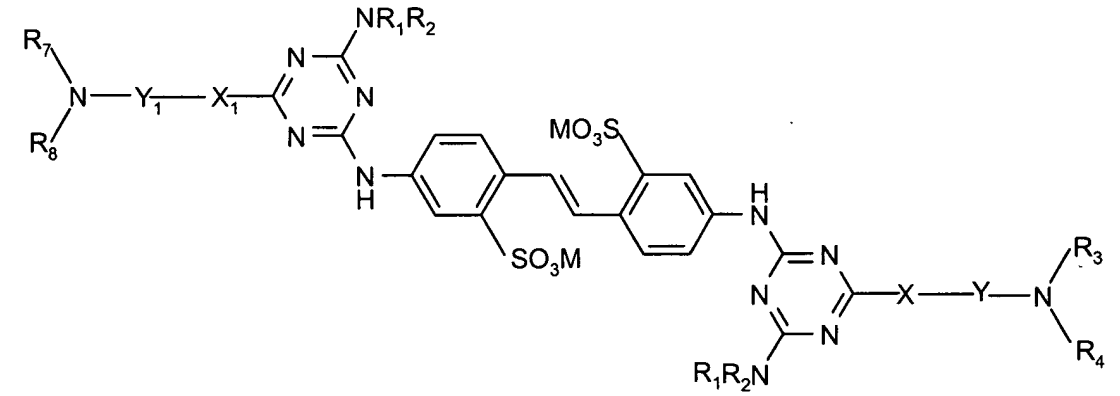


(1f).

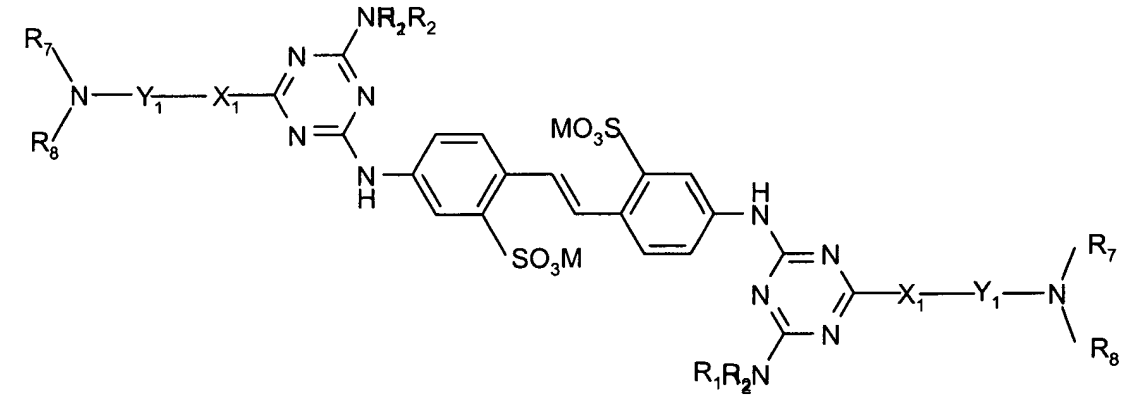
3. **(previously presented):** A fluorescent whitening agent, according to claim **1**, which comprises a mixture of compounds of the formulae



(1d),

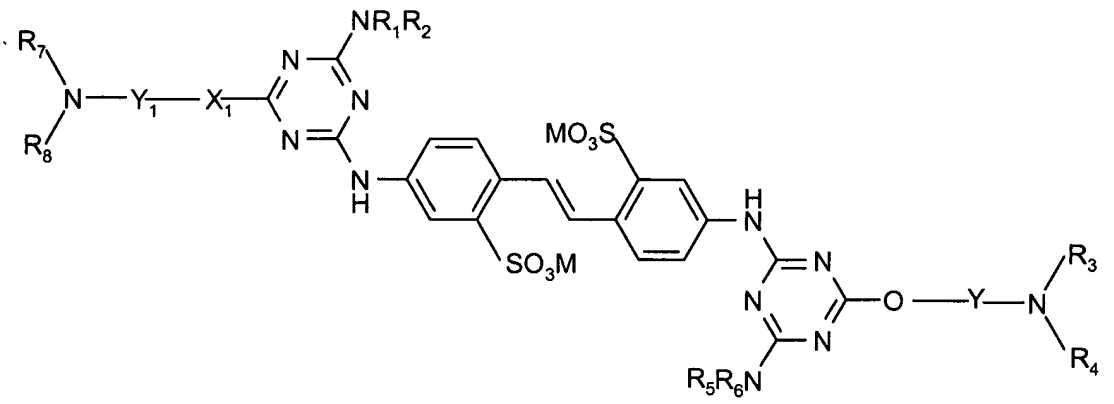


(1g) and



(1h).

4. **(original):** A compound of formula

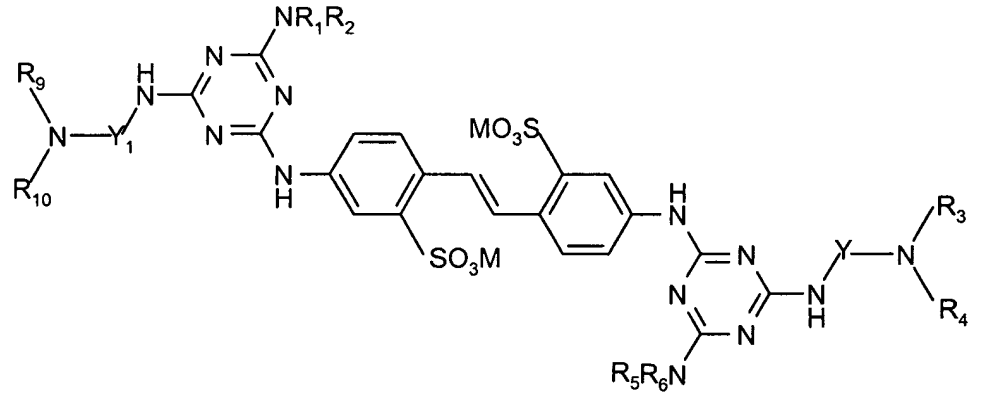


(2),

in which

X_1, Y, Y_1, R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4, R_5, R_6, R_7, R_8 and M are as defined in claim **1**.

5. **(currently amended):** A compound of the formula



(3),

in which

R_9 and R_{10}, each independently of each other, represent hydrogen or C_2-C_4hydroxyalkyl and

Y_7 and Y_1 each, independently of each other, represent a straight-chain C_2-C_8alkylene or branched C_3-C_8alkylene chain, which may be interrupted by one or two nitrogen, oxygen or sulphur atoms or represent a 5- or 6-membered cycloaliphatic ring,

R_1, R_2, R_5 and R_6 each independently of each other, represent hydrogen, C_1-C_8alkyl, C_2-C_4hydroxyalkyl, C_1-C_4alkoxyC_1-C_4alkyl, phenyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, C_1-C_4alkoxy, C_1-C_4alkyl or sulphonamido, or

R_1 and R_2 and /or R_5 and R_6, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, complete a morpholino- piperidino- or pyrrolidino-ring,

R_3 and R_4 each independently of each other, represent hydrogen, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_2-C_4hydroxyalkyl or

R_3 and R_4 , together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, complete a morpholino-, piperidino- or pyrrolidino-ring and

M represents hydrogen, an alkaline or alkaline earth metal, ammonium or alkylammonium

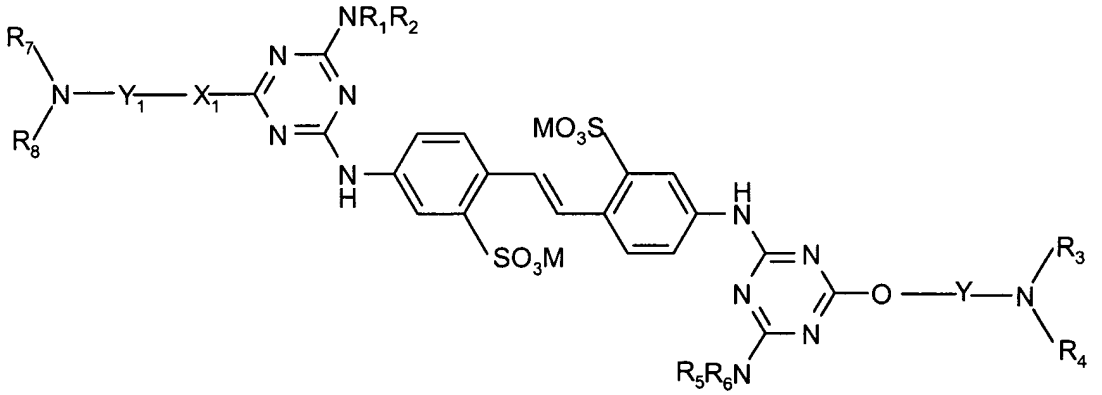
~~R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4, R_5, R_6, and M are as defined in claim 1~~,

with the proviso that when

Y and Y_1 both represent $-CH_2CH_2CH_2-$, R_1 and R_5 are both phenyl and R_2 and R_6 are both hydrogen, R_3, R_4, R_9 and R_{10} are not all $-CH_2CH_2OH$.

6. **(previously presented):** A process for the preparation of a mixture of compounds of formulae (1a), (1b) and (1c), according to claim **1**, by reacting, under known reaction conditions, cyanuric chloride, successively, in any desired sequence, with each of 4,4'-diaminostilbene-2,2'- disulphonic acid, amino compounds of formulae R_1R_2NH and R_5R_6NH or mixtures thereof and compounds of formulae R_3R_4YXH and $R_7R_8Y_1X_1H$ or mixtures thereof.

7. **(previously presented):** A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (2),

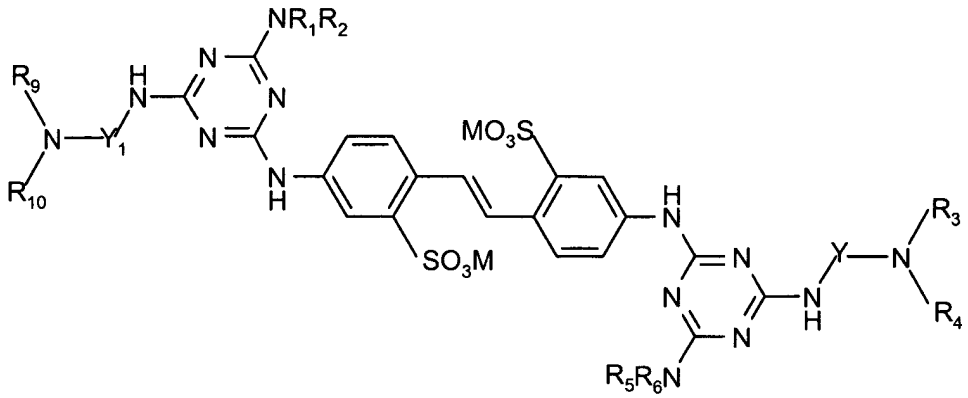


(2),

by reacting, under known reaction conditions, cyanuric chloride, successively, in any desired sequence, with each of 4,4'-diaminostilbene-2,2'- disulphonic acid, an amino compound of formula R_1R_2NH, an amino compound of formula R_5R_6NH, a hydroxy compound of formula R_3R_4NYOH and a compound of formula $R_7R_8NY_1X_1H$,

X_1, Y, Y_1, R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4, R_5, R_6, R_7 and R_8 being as defined in claim **1**.

8. **(previously presented):** A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (3),

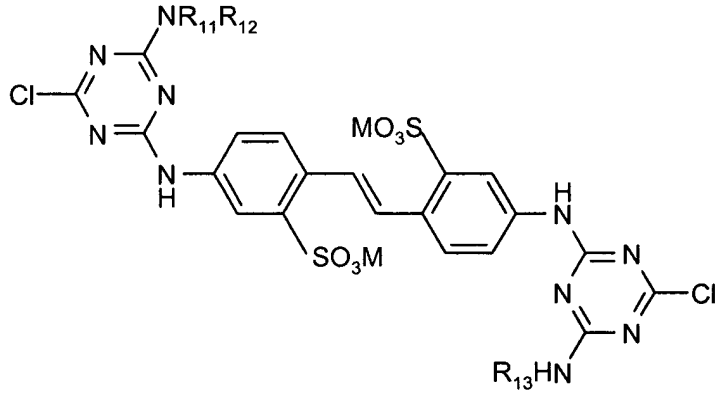


(3),

by reacting, under known reaction conditions, cyanuric chloride, successively, in any desired sequence, with each of 4,4'-diaminostilbene-2,2'- disulphonic acid, an amino compound of formula R_1R_2NH, an amino compound of formula R_5R_6NH, an amino compound of formula $R_3R_4NYNH_2$ and a compound of formula $R_9R_{10}NY_1NH_2$,

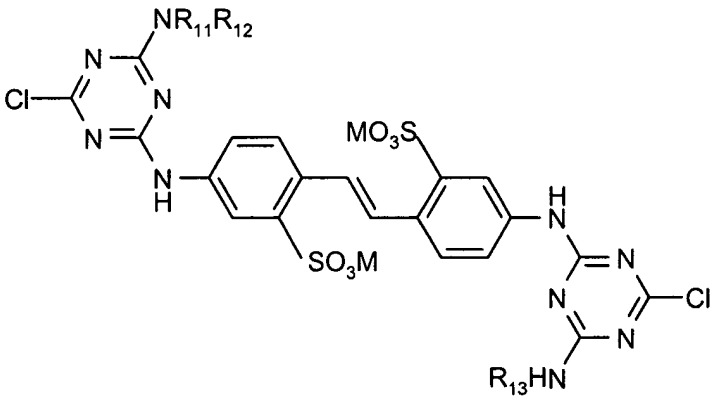
Y, Y_1, R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4, R_5, R_6, R_9 and R_{10} being as defined in claim **5**.

9. **(original):** A compound of the formula

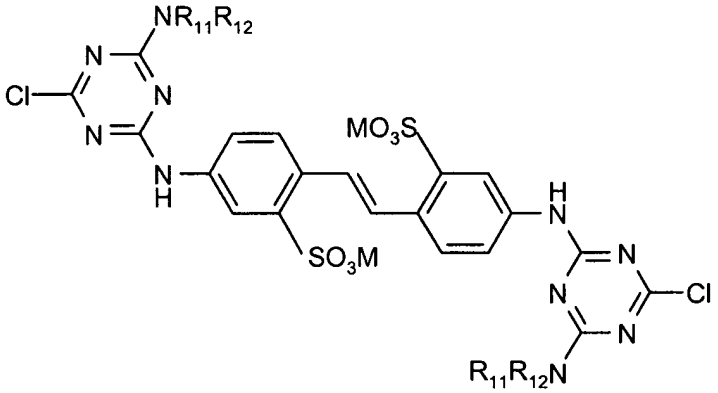


(4a)

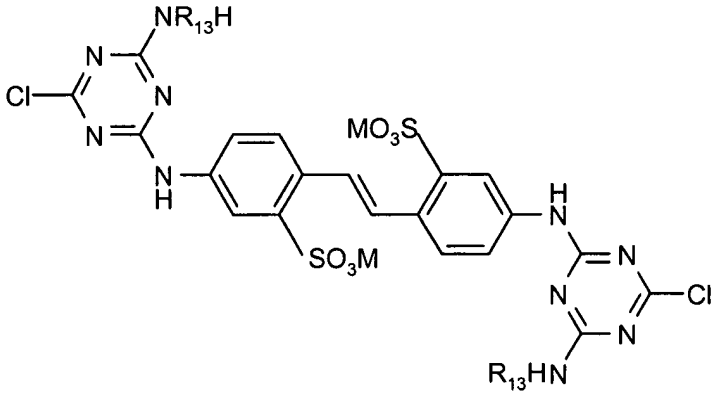
or a mixture comprising compounds of the formulae



(4a),



(4b) and



(4c),

in which

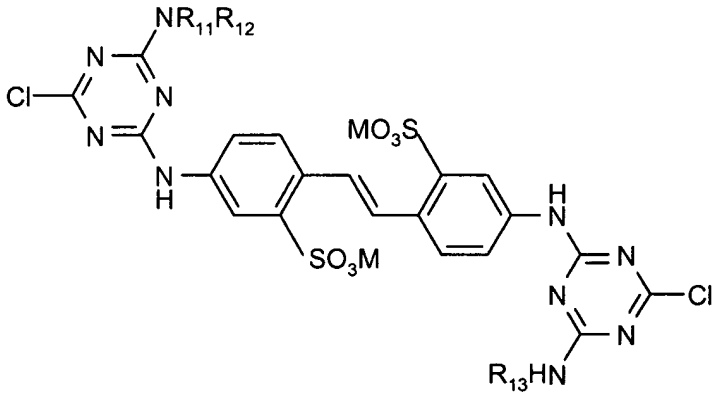
R_{11} and R_{12}, each independently of each other, represent hydrogen, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_2-C_4hydroxyalkyl, C_1-C_4alkoxyC_1-C_4alkyl or, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, complete a morpholino-, piperidino- or pyrrolidino-ring,

R_{13} represents phenyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, C_1-C_4alkoxy, C_1-C_4alkyl or sulphonamido and

M represents hydrogen, an alkaline or alkaline earth metal, ammonium or alkyl ammonium.

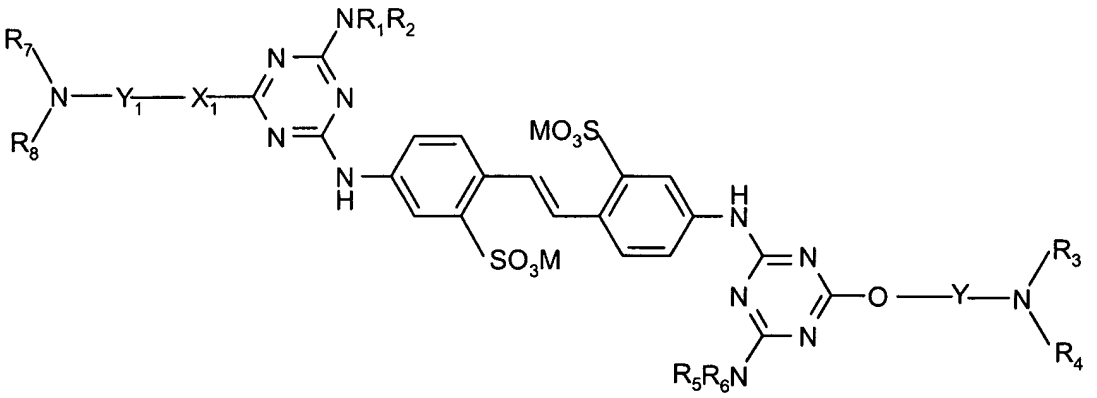
10. **(previously presented):** A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (4a) or a mixture of compounds of formulae (4a), (4b) and (4c), according to claim **9**, by reacting, under known reaction conditions, cyanuric chloride, successively, in any desired sequence, with each of 4,4'-diaminostilbene-2,2'- disulphonic acid, an amino compound of formula $R_{11}R_{12}$ NH and an amino compound of formula $R_{13}NH_2$ or with a mixture of amino compounds $R_{11}R_{12}NH$ and $R_{13}NH_2$, R_{11}, R_{12} and R_{13} .

11. **(previously presented):** An intermediate of the compound of formula (4a),



(4a)

for the preparation of a compound of formula (2),



(2),

in which, in formula (2),

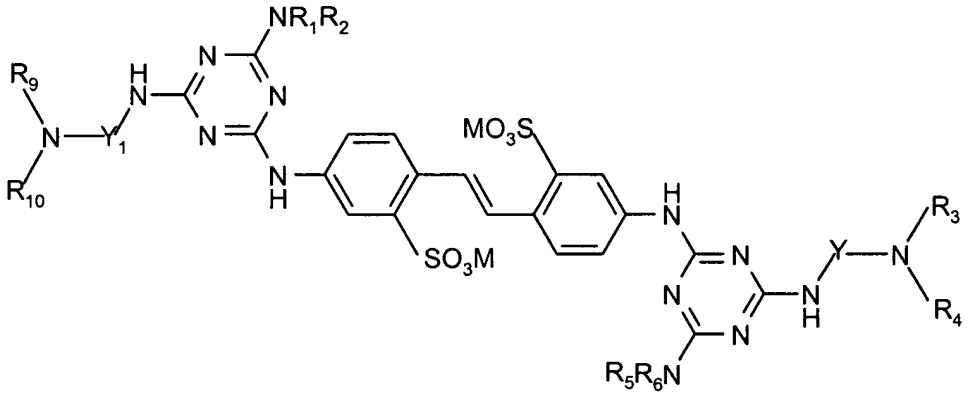
R_1 and R_2 each independently of each other, represent hydrogen, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_2-C_4hydroxyalkyl, C_1-C_4alkoxyC_1-C_4alkyl or, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, complete a morpholino-, piperidino- or pyrrolidino-ring,

R_5 represents phenyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, C_1-C_4alkoxy, C_1-C_4alkyl or sulphonamido,

R_6 represents hydrogen and

X_1, Y, Y_1, R_3, R_4, R_7, R_8 and M are as defined in claim **1** or

for the preparation of compound of formula (3),



(3),

in which, in formula (3),

R_1 and R_2 each independently of each other, represent hydrogen, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_2-C_4hydroxyalkyl, C_1-C_4alkoxyC_1-C_4alkyl or, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, complete a morpholino-, piperidino- or pyrrolidino-ring,

R_5 represents phenyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, C_1-C_4alkoxy, C_1-C_4alkyl or sulphonamido,

R_6 represents hydrogen and

Y, Y_1, R_3, R_4, R_9, R_{10}, and M are as previously defined in claims **1**

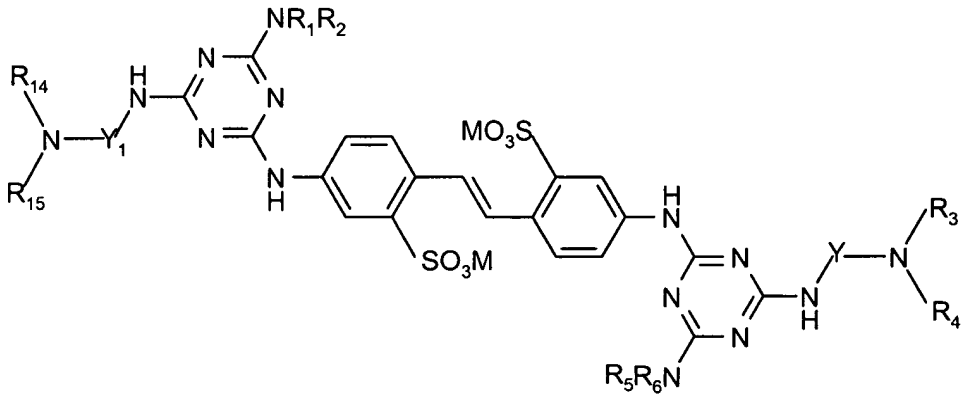
wherein R_9 and R_{10}, each independently of each other, represent hydrogen or C_2-C_4hydroxyalkyl and, with the proviso that when

Y and Y_1 both represent $-CH_2CH_2CH_2-$, R_1 and R_5 are both phenyl and R_2 and R_6 are both hydrogen, R_3, R_4, R_9 and R_{10} are not all $-CH_2CH_2OH$.

12. **(previously presented):** a method of florescent whitening paper comprising contacting the paper with a fluorescent whitening mixture of compounds of formulae (1a), (1b) and (1c), according to claim **1**.

13. **(previously presented):** A method of florescent whitening paper comprising contacting the the paper with a fluorescent whitening agent of a compound of formula (2), according to claim **4**.

14. **(previously presented):** A method of florescent whitening paper comprising contacting the paper with a fluorescent whitenting agent of formula (5)



(5),

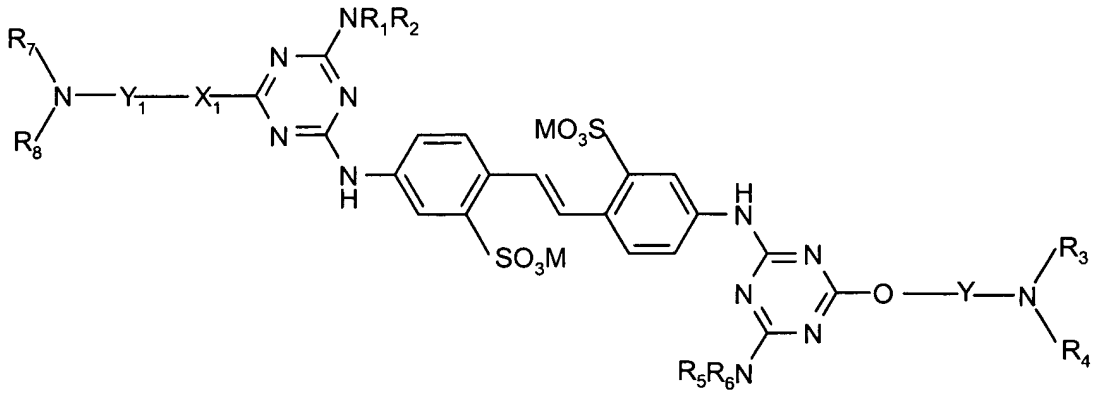
in which

R_{14} and R_{15}, each independently of each other, represent hydrogen, C_1-C_4alkyl or C_2-C_4hydroxyalkyl and

Y, Y_1, R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4, R_5, R_6, and M are as defined in claim **1**.

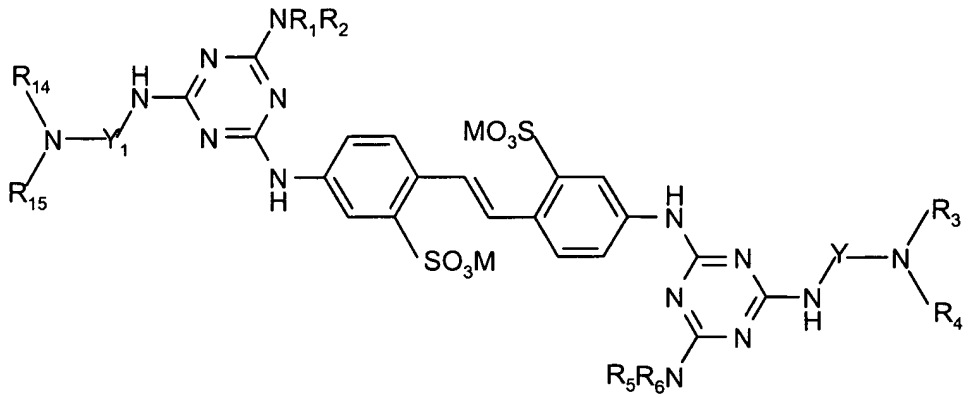
15. **(previously presented):** Paper, which has been treated with a fluorescent whitening agent comprising either a mixture of compounds of formulae (1a), (1b) and (1c), according to claim **1**,

a compound of formula (2),



(2),

or a compound of formula (5),



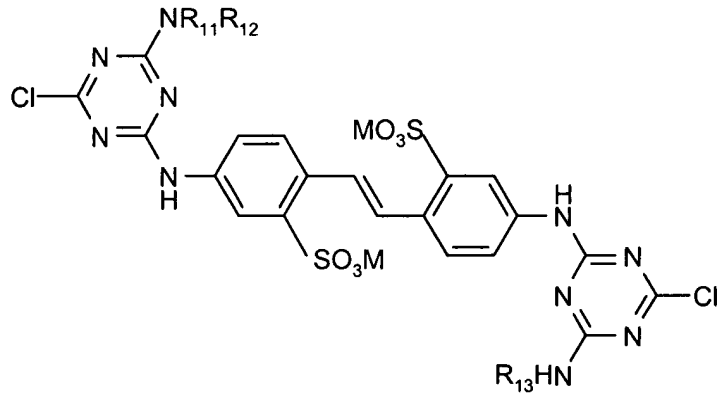
(5),

in which

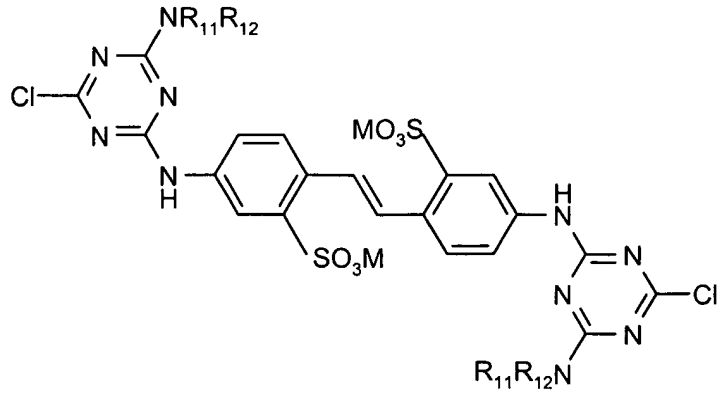
R_{14} and R_{15}, each independently of each other, represent hydrogen, C_1-C_4alkyl or C_2-C_4hydroxyalkyl and

X_1, Y, Y_1, R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4, R_5, R_6, R_7, R_8 and M are as defined in claim **1**.

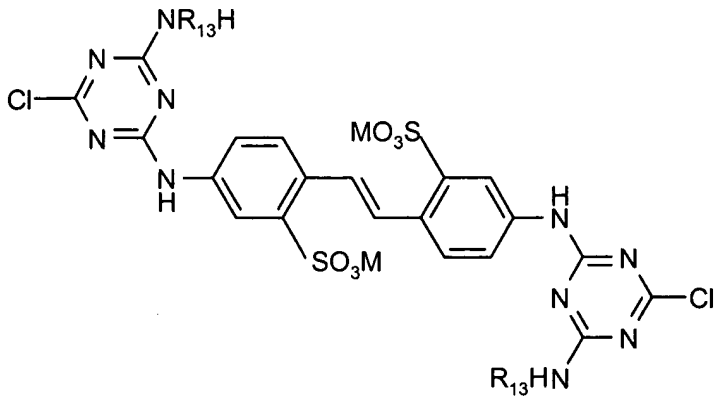
16. **(previously presented):** A mixture of intermediates of formulae (4a), (4b) and (4c),



(4a),



(4b) and



(4c),

in which in formulae (4a), (4b) and (4c),

R_{11} and R_{12}, each independently of each other, represent hydrogen, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_2-C_4hydroxyalkyl, C_1-C_4alkoxyC_1-C_4alkyl or, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, complete a morpholino-, piperidino- or pyrrolidino-ring,

R_{13} represents phenyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, C_1-C_4alkoxy, C_1-C_4alkyl or sulphonamido and

M represents hydrogen, an alkaline or alkaline earth metal, ammonium or alkyl ammonium,

for the preparation of a mixture of compounds of formulae (1a), (1b) and (1c), according to claim **1**, in which, in formulae (1a), (1b) and (1c),

R_1 and R_2 each independently of each other, represent hydrogen, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_2-C_4hydroxyalkyl, C_1-C_4alkoxyC_1-C_4alkyl or, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, complete a morpholino-, piperidino- or pyrrolidino-ring,

R_5 represents phenyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, C_1-C_4alkoxy, C_1-C_4alkyl or sulphonamido,

R_6 represents hydrogen and

X, X_1, Y, Y_1, R_3, R_4, R_7, R_8 and M are as defined in claim **1**.